

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A data reader arranged to read a data-holding medium 10 containing both user 30
and non-user 32,34 data, said non-user data 32,34 holding information relating to
said user data 30, said data reader comprising at least one read head 12 arranged
to read the data-holding medium 10 and generate a data signal 14 comprising user
data and non-user data, said user data being arranged into a plurality of sets
interspersed with said non-user data, said non-user data being arranged to
10 identify said user data within said sets, processing circuitry 8 being arranged to
receive and process said data signal 14 and obtain said user data 30 from said
data signal 14 using said non-user data 32,34 to identify said user data 30 within
said data signal 14. The data reader is particularly suitable for use in tape drives,
and/or in situations in which re-writes, and overwrites of data occur.

15

To be accompanied, when published, by Figure 16 of the drawings.